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Letter dated 11 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to write to transmit to you a letter from the representative of the Frente POLISARIO Front dated 10 April 2008 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dumisani S. **Kumalo**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of South Africa

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Annex to the letter dated 11 April 2008 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the letter addressed to you by President Mohamed Abdelaziz, Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO:

Bir Lehlu, 10 April 2008

I have the honour to transmit to you, prior to the consideration by the Council of the situation concerning Western Sahara, the view of the Frente POLISARIO regarding the most recent round of negotiations with Morocco, which concluded in Manhasset on 18 March 2008.

The Frente POLISARIO is pleased that this peaceful process is under way, and we welcome and support the efforts of the United Nations, and in particular the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Peter van Walsum.

The Frente POLISARIO is committed to finding a peaceful, sustainable and durable solution to the question of Western Sahara.

At the most recent round of talks, the Frente POLISARIO explained its ideas for future administrative, political, economic, social and security arrangements in the Territory of Western Sahara, in order to elaborate and fill out its 10 April 2007 proposal.

We set out in detail our proposals for government institutions, the administration of justice and the rule of law as well as arrangements for the management of the Territory's natural, including mineral, resources.

Our proposals set out arrangements for a State where, as established in the provisional Constitution, democracy and the rule of law are the founding principles, where natural resources are exploited for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Territory and where the interests of Morocco and other neighbouring States are protected, bearing in mind the prospects of Maghreb integration process.

In our view, democracy and the rule of law are the only bases for long-term stability and legitimacy of government in the Territory. Naturally, such a State can only be founded in the exercise of the principle of self-determination — a right repeatedly recognized by Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

In contrast, Morocco continues to insist that its autonomy proposal is the only possible solution. This proposal, which presupposes as a precondition the "Moroccanness" of the Territory, denies the legitimate right of self-determination, and thereby the possibility of a long-term democratic and thus permanent solution to the status of the Territory.

We assume that the Council wishes only to encourage and then endorse a sustainable, peaceful and stable solution to this long-standing conflict. Such a solution is only available if the right to self-determination is respected for the Saharawi people and if the State that follows the exercise of such a right is a democratic and lawful one.

That is the essence of the proposal of the Frente POLISARIO.

We remain willing to discuss the details of these arrangements with Morocco. We are ready also to implement in full the confidence-building measures proposed by the United Nations. We note with regret that Morocco has refused to discuss these confidence-building measures at this and previous rounds of United Nations negotiations.

We also condemn the continued pattern of human rights abuses of Saharawi civilian populations inside the occupied Territory.

We urge the Security Council to implement the recommendations of the 2006 report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in particular that MUNIRSO be mandated to monitor the human rights of inhabitants of Western Sahara: this is a minimum that must be done to protect the Saharawi people from repression and mistreatment. It is frankly to the discredit of the United Nations that it has not implemented its own High Commissioner's recommendations in this regard.

We are ready to continue the United Nations negotiating process and elaborate further — but above all discuss — our positive and constructive ideas for arrangements to govern the Territory.

We have taken into account the concerns expressed by Morocco during the talks so far. We recognize, in this connection, that Morocco and its citizens have requirements that will need to be respected. In this connection, human rights of Moroccan inhabitants of the Territory should be fully protected. We also recognize and are willing to take account of Morocco's security concerns, including over its southern border.

Despite Morocco's illegal occupation of Western Sahara, we expressed during the latest round of negotiations that we are willing to begin today security cooperation with Morocco to combat potential security threats in the trans-Sahara region.

We reiterate that any long-standing solution to the conflict of Western Sahara and the stability and security of the region require a democratic and legitimate Government of Western Sahara. This can only happen with a process of self-determination allowing the free choice of the people of Western Sahara as clearly assumed by the United Nations with regard to the question of decolonization.

We urge you, and through you members of the Security Council, to continue to support the negotiating process, to maintain the integrity of Security resolutions 1754 (2007) and 1783 (2007) and, in this regard, to encourage both parties to abide by international legality with regard to the question of decolonization and, thus, to demonstrate the flexibility and imagination that we believe the Frente POLISARIO has been demonstrating in this process since its very beginning in 1990. Only then is the prospect of success possible.

Mohamed **Abdelaziz**
Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO
President of SADR

I would be grateful to you if you could bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Boukhari**
Representative of the Frente POLISARIO